

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 08628 081459Z
ACTION DOE-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 DOEE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /122 W
-----115432 081517Z /45

O P 081220Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8008
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOUALA PRIORITY

UNCLAS NAIROBI 8628

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: TECH,ENRGY
SUBJ: VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL SOLAR COMMERCIALIZATION

REF STATE 141347

1; AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND
INSTITUTIONS ACTIVE IN ENERGY FIELD IN KENYA, EMBASSY
HAS CONCLUDED THAT PROPOSED VISIT OF ISCWG WOULD BE
UNFRUITFUL AND PREMATURE.

2. STATE OF THE ART IN SOLAR TECHNOLOGY CURRENTLY
VERY RUDIMENTARY. THERE ARE SOLAR HEATING UNITS IN
VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THESE
ARE IMPORTED FROM EUROPE. SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS HERE
(UNICEF AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI) HAVE SMALL
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RESEARCH PROGRAMS FOR APPLICATION OF VERY UNSOPHISTICATED
SOLAR DEVICE. NO ONE WE TALKED TO FELT CONFIDENT THAT
ISCWG WOULD BE ABLE TO GATHER MEANINGFUL MARKET DATA SINCE
AT THIS TIME KNOWLEDGE OF THE PORTENTIAL FOR SOLAR ENERGY
IS BASICALLY NON-EXISTANT.

3. GOK IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN

OVERALL WORKING PROGRAM FOR TOTAL ENERGY USE. ON ASPECT OF THIS PROGRAM WILL CONCERN ITSELF WITH NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. SENIOR ADVISOR TO GOK (A CANADIAN) IN THIS EFFORT HAS ONLY BEEN IN COUNTRY SINCE APRIL 1978. DEVELOPMENT OF THIS OVERALL ENERGY PLAN, THEREFORE, IS IN EMBRYONIC STATE. ADVISOR BELIEVES ACTIVITY OF ISCWG WOULD BE MORE FRUITFUL IF THE GROUP VISITED A YEAR FROM NOW WHEN INFORMATION ABOUT KENYA'S FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENTS WILL HAVE BEEN GENERATED BY THIS PROJECT. FYI: GOK WAS RECENTLY OFFERED SERVICES OF A SOLAR ENERGY CONSULTANT BY THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. SERVICES WERE DECLINED UNTIL TOTAL ENERGY PACKAGE IS FORMULATED. IEND FYI.

4. IF ISCWG STILL DESIRES TO VISIT KENYA
EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE ASSIST IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, OUR BEST JUDGEMENT AT THIS TIME IS THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN LITTLE OF VALUE. PLEASE ADVISE DECISION ON TEAM VISIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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